



PAT STRACHOTA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Assembly Committee on Transportation

Testimony of Representative Pat Strachota

Senate Bill 374 – Creating an exception to the CDL requirements for law enforcement officers
Thursday, March 11, 2010

Honorable Colleagues,

I would like to thank the Chairman for scheduling this public hearing on SB 374 so quickly. The sheriff of Washington County recently brought this issue to the attention of Senator Grothman and myself.

SB 374 creates a CDL exception for law enforcement officers who operate commercial motor vehicles, such as, but not limited to: SWAT vehicles and mobile command stations. Wisconsin State Statutes currently exempt firefighters, farmers and rescue squad members from being required to obtain a CDL, I believe that law enforcement officers should also be given this same exemption.

SB 374 mirrors federal guidelines, in that it requires that vehicles be equipped with warning sirens and lamps. The exemption we are seeking with SB 374 only would take effect when law enforcement officers deemed it necessary for the preservation of life and property.

By enacting SB 374 into law, we are giving our first responders another way to improve efficiency and effectiveness to those in need throughout the state.

Assembly Transportation Committee

Testimony for Senator Glenn Grothman
Senate Bill 374—Creating an exception to the CDL requirements for law
enforcement officers

Honorable Colleagues:

Thank you for giving us a hearing on SB 374. This bill was brought to my attention by my local sheriff in Washington County.

This bill creates a commercial drivers license (CDL) exception for law enforcement officers who operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). Currently Wisconsin Statutes already exempt firefighters, farmers and rescue squad members from being required to attain a CDL. It only makes sense to exempt law enforcement as well. This bill will alleviate scheduling conflicts and provide our law enforcement officers with one more tool that will enable them to more effectively provide their services to our local communities and state as a whole.

Instances where this is needed include, and are not limited to, operation and transportation of mobile command stations, SWAT vehicles and any other such vehicles that would otherwise require a CDL license.

This bill is in line with federal guidelines because it requires that the vehicles be equipped with warning lamps and sirens.

A great example at this present time would be the exemption of volunteer fire fighters who might not have a CDL.

This bill passed unanimously through the Senate Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee and passed by a voice vote on the floor of the Senate.